Amendments to the Claims:

Kindly amend claims 19, 26, 32, and 41 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A method of converting a full color image to a two color image for a thermal printer, wherein said two colors are a primary color and a secondary color, comprising:

providing a color image on a host computer as display pixels, wherein said color image includes a combination of none, one, two, or all three of a first color, a second color, and a third color;

converting each pixel to a corresponding printer command;

determining a primary color value and a secondary color value for each of said printer commands based on an intensity of said first color, said second color and said third color present in said pixel;

comparing each of said primary and secondary color values for each printer command to a given threshold and designating a color value as ON if it exceeds a given threshold, and designating a color value as OFF if it is below or equal to said given threshold;

performing a logical OR operation on said primary and secondary color values to produce a secondary value;

loading said secondary value into a secondary print buffer;

printing nothing if said secondary value is OFF and printing said secondary color if said secondary value is ON;

loading said primary color value into a primary print buffer; and

printing said primary color if said primary color value is ON.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said first, second, and third colors are red, green and blue, in any order.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said first, second, and third colors are cyan, magenta, and yellow, in any order.

4. (Previously presented) An apparatus for converting a full color image to a two color image for a thermal printer, wherein said two colors are a primary color and a secondary color, comprising:

means for providing a color image on a host computer as display pixels, wherein said color image includes a combination of none, one, two, or all three of a first color, a second color, and a third color;

means for converting each pixel to a corresponding printer command;

means for determining a primary color value and a secondary color value for each of said printer commands based on an intensity of said first color, said second color and said third color present in said pixel;

means for comparing each of said color values for each printer command to a given threshold and designating a color value as ON if it has a first relationship to a given threshold, and designating a color value as OFF if it has a second relationship to said given threshold;

means for performing a logical operation on said color values to produce a secondary value;

means for loading said secondary value into a secondary print buffer;

means for printing nothing if said secondary value is OFF and printing said secondary color if said secondary value is ON;

means for loading said primary color value into a primary print buffer; and

means for printing said primary color if said primary color value is ON.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said first, second and third colors are red, green and blue, in any order.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said first, second, and third colors are cyan, magenta, and yellow, in any order.

Claims 7-18 (canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method of converting a full color image to a two color image for printing by a thermal printer, wherein said two colors are a primary color and ~~an alternate~~ a secondary color, comprising the steps of:

providing first dots defining said full color image, said first dots having a combination of none, one, two, or all three of a first color, a second color, and a third color; and

determining a plurality of printer commands representing second dot data to be printed in said two color image, said second dot data being in a form of binary primary color dot data [[,]] ~~alternate~~ and binary secondary color dot data~~, and no-print dot data~~ derived from said first dots.

20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of printing said second dot data on a thermal substrate.

21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein said step of printing is performed on a two-color point-of-sale printer.

22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein:

said thermal substrate has a background color, a primary encapsulated color, and a secondary encapsulated color, and

a three color output is provided by using said primary encapsulated color as the first color, said secondary encapsulated color as the second color, and said background color as the third color.

23. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein said full color image is provided on a host computer with said first dots comprising display pixels.

24. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein said step of determining includes determining a primary color value and a secondary color value for use in providing said second dot data based on an intensity of said first color, said second color, and said third color present in a corresponding display pixel.

25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein said step of determining includes determining a primary color value and a secondary color value for use in providing said second dot data based on an intensity of said first color, said second color, and said third color present in a corresponding first dot of said full color image.

26. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein said step of determining comprises:

determining first, second, and third color values for said first color, said second color, and said third color, respectively;

comparing each of said first, second, and third color values to a given threshold;

associating a color value with a first state if it has a first relationship to said given threshold;

associating a color value with a second state if it has a second relationship to said given threshold; and

providing a printer command representing second dot data in the form of:

(a) primary color dot data if all color values are associated with said second state,

(b) primary color dot data if said first color value is associated with said first state and said second and third color values are associated with said second state and said primary color is said first color; and

(c) ~~alternate~~ secondary color dot data if said first color value is associated with said first state and said second and third color values are associated with said second state and said ~~alternate~~ secondary color is said first color.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 26, comprising:

providing a printer command representing second dot data in the form of:

(d) no-print dot data if all color values are associated with said first state.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, further comprising sending said printer commands to a printer.

29. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein said printer commands are generated at a printer.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein said first, second, and third colors are red, green, and blue, in any order.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein said first, second, and third colors are cyan, magenta, and yellow, in any order.

32. (Currently amended) Apparatus for converting a full color image to a two color image, wherein said two colors are a primary color and ~~an alternate~~ a secondary color, comprising:

a host computer adapted to display said full color image as a combination of none, one, two, or all three of a first color, a second color, and a third color; and

a processor adapted to provide a plurality of printer commands representing individual dot data from said image in a form of binary primary color dot data [[,]] and binary secondary ~~alternate~~ color dot data~~, and no-print dot data~~.

33. (Previously presented) Apparatus in accordance with claim 32 wherein said processor resides in said host computer.

34. (Previously presented) Apparatus in accordance with claim 33 wherein said host computer further comprises a communication port for forwarding said printer commands to a printer.

35. (Previously presented) Apparatus in accordance with claim 32 wherein said processor resides in a printer coupled to receive color information representative of said full color image from said host computer.

36. (Previously presented) Apparatus in accordance with claim 32, further comprising a thermal printer adapted to print said individual dot data on a printable medium.

37. (Previously presented) Apparatus in accordance with claim 36, wherein:

said printable medium is a thermal substrate having a background color, a primary encapsulated color, and a secondary encapsulated color, and

a three color output is provided by using said primary encapsulated color as the first color, said secondary encapsulated color as the second color, and said background color as the third color.

38. (Previously presented) Apparatus in accordance with claim 32, further comprising a two-color point-of-sale printer adapted to print said individual dot data on a printable medium.

39. (Previously presented) Apparatus in accordance with claim 32, wherein said first, second, and third colors are red, green, and blue, in any order.

40. (Previously presented) Apparatus in accordance with claim 32, wherein said first, second, and third colors are cyan, magenta, and yellow, in any order.

41. (Currently amended) A computer memory device storing program code for conversion of a full color image to a two color image for printing, wherein said two colors are a primary color and ~~an alternate~~ a secondary color, said conversion comprising:

identifying first dots defining said full color image, said first dots having a combination of none, one, two, or all three of a first color, a second color, and a third color; and

determining a plurality of printer commands representing second dot data to be printed in said two color image, said second dot data being in a form of binary primary color dot data [[,]] and binary secondary ~~alternate~~ color dot data~~, and no-print dot data~~ derived from said first dots.

42. (Previously presented) A computer memory device according to claim 41, wherein said program code is adapted to send said printer commands to a printer.

43. (Previously presented) A computer memory device according to claim 41, wherein said determining step is performed at a printer.